

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-PS-6-16-05

Issued at Anchorage, June 29, 2005

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., June 30, 2005

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. December 31, 2005, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the pink salmon bag and possession limit to 12 pink salmon per day and 24 in possession in the salt waters of Valdez Arm north of a line from Point Freemantle to Rocky Point, but excluding Jack, Sawmill and Galena bays. This emergency order is effective beginning 12:01 a.m., June 30, 2005.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 55.023 (1)(B) and (1)(B)(ii) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m., June 30, 2005:

5 AAC 55.023. SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA.

(1)(B) within the following terminal harvest areas, except the Valdez vicinity, the bag limit is six fish; and the possession limit is 12 fish:

(ii) VALDEZ VICINITY: The salt waters north of a line from Point Freemantle to Rocky Point excluding Jack, Sawmill and Galena bays; the bag limit is 12 pink salmon; and the possession limit is 24 pink salmon;

McKie Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Matthew G. Miller,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The pink salmon return to Valdez Fishery Development Association's (VFDA) Solomon Gulch Hatchery is tracking well ahead of the anticipated return for this date. As of June 27, VFDA's cost recovery harvest was approximately 50% complete and was proceeding well ahead of schedule. The harvest from the first commercial fishing period was 1.4 million pink salmon with large concentrations of fish being captured at the head of Port Valdez. The first aerial survey of the Eastern District on June 23 yielded stream and stream mouth counts for chum and pink salmon greater than anticipated for that date, allowing increased opportunity for hatchery pink salmon without having a negative impact on Eastern District wild stocks.

Therefore, it is warranted to increase the pink salmon bag and possession limit in the marine waters of Port Valdez and Valdez Arm.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.